

Message Text

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47

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E.O. 11652: N/A TAGS: PINT/IT

SUBJECT: AVELLINO DC-PCI ACCORD

REFS: NAPLES A-2, FEBRUARY 10, 1975; NAPLES 86; ROME 898

1. DESPITE PUBLIC STATEMENTS BY LOCAL DC LEADERS THAT NO ACCORD EXISTS BETWEEN CHRISTIAN DEMOCRATS AND COMMUNISTS IN AVELLINO, PROVINCIAL GIUNTA'S PROGRAM WAS APPROVED ON MARCH 27 BY PROVINCIAL COUNCIL WITH VOTES OF THE DC, PSI, AND PCI. PCI SUPPORT COMES AS A

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SURPRISE SINCE DC COUNCILORS HAD DENIED EXISTENCE OF A "MINI-COMPROMESSO" IN DEBATES PRECEDING THE VOTE AND, IN A CONVERSATION WITH A CONSULATE GENERAL OFFICER ON MARCH 6, DC PROVINCIAL SECRETARY AND DC PROVINCIAL COUNCIL "CAPOGRUPPO" PISANO SAID THAT HE DID NOT EXPECT PCI APPROVAL OF THE PROGRAM.

2. EVEN AFTER THE VOTE, LOCAL DC PUBLICLY DISCOUNTED PCI VOTES AS "ADJUNCTIVE" AND NOT CRUCIAL TO SURVIVAL OF BICOLOR DC-PSI GIUNTA. (DC AND PSI CONTROL 16 OF 30 COUNCIL SEATS). THEY CHOSE TO EXPLAIN COMMUNIST SUPPORT AS A "CONVERGENZA DI PROGRAMMA" IN FIELD OF ECONOMIC

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DEVELOPMENT.

3. THE COMMUNISTS APPARENTLY SEE THINGS IN DIFFERENT LIGHT. ON MARCH 29 NAPLES-CAMPANIA EDITION OF L'UNITA' CARRIED AN ARTICLE REPORTING VOTE WITH HEADLINE: "THE AVELLINO ACCORD OPENS THE WAY TO A CONSTRUCTIVE CHALLENGE AMONG DEMOCRATIC FORCES." THE ARTICLE STATES VOTE IS INDICATIVE OF "THE SURPASSING OF THE CENTER-LEFT FORMULA AS WELL AS PREJUDICIAL ANTICOMMUNISM IN FAVOR OF A NEW AND POSITIVE RELATIONSHIP WITH PCI. ONLY IN THIS MANNER--AS HAS BEEN RECOGNIZED BY DC CAPOGRUPPO AND PROVINCIAL PARTY SECRETARY PISANO--HAS IT BEEN POSSIBLE TO GIVE THE PROVINCE A GOVERNMENT."

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4. COMMENT: IT IS HIGHLY UNLIKELY PCI WOULD VOTE TO SUPPORT A PROGRAM INTRODUCED BY A DC GIUNTA PRESIDENT WITHOUT PRIOR AGREEMENT HAVING BEEN REACHED ON CONTENT OF THAT PROGRAM. IN LIGHT OF THIS, STATEMENTS BY AVELLINO DC LEADERS DENYING EXISTENCE OF A "MINI-COMPROMESSO" WITH THE PCI ARE PROBABLY JUST FACE-SAVING EFFORTS AIMED AT GIVING DC NATIONAL LEADERSHIP A JUSTIFICATION FOR SAYING THE SITUATION HAS BEEN "NORMALIZED." WITH REGIONAL ELECTIONS FAST APPROACHING IN JUNE, PROVOKING A CRISIS IN A PROVINCE WHICH PREVIOUSLY WAS UNDER COMMISSARIAT ADMINISTRATION FOR OVER A YEAR WOULD CERTAINLY DAMAGE THE DC'S ALREADY WEAKENED ELECTORAL POSITION. AVELLINO DC IS MOST LIKELY BETTING THAT REALIZATION OF THIS, PLUS DAMPENING OF ENTHUSIASM FOR "MINICOMPROMESSI" ELSEWHERE AFTER THE VENICE FAILURE, WILL INDUCE DC NATIONAL LEADERSHIP TO IGNORE LATEST EVENTS IN AVELLINO. HOROWITZ.

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